

**STEERING COLUMN LINKAGE TILT LEVER****ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The latch mechanism includes the shoe release lever pivotally attached to the support housing for pivotal movement about a lever axis parallel to the tilt axis between the latched position and the unlatched position. A tab extends from a slide to define a connection between the lever and the slide for moving the slide out of engagement with a tilt shoe thereby allowing rotation of the tilt shoe to the unlatched position. The connection, defined by the tab and opening, is spaced along the release lever from the lever axis and the distal end defined by a knob to provide compact packaging while retaining adequate mechanical advantage.